

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 01898 201031Z

20

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /055 W

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P R 201013Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8979

INFO CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 1898

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, KS, KN

SUBJECT: MOFA BRIEFS DIPLOMATS ON NORTH KOREAN TUNNEL

REF: CINCUNC 190910Z MAR 75

1. ACTING FONMIN LHO SHIN YONG BRIEFED DIPLOMATIC CORPS AFTERNOON MARCH 20 ON DISCOVERY SECOND DMZ TUNNEL. BRIEFING, ATTENDED BY CHARGE, WAS SIMILAR IN CONTENT TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT (REFTEL) ON TUNNEL. LHO STRESSED THAT CAPACITY OF SECOND TUNNEL IS MILITARILY MORE SIGNIFICANT THAN FIRST AND THAT DISCOVERY WAS MADE FOLLOWING SYSTEMATIC AND HIGHLY TECHNICAL DRILLING OPERATION BY BOTH ROK AND UNC.
2. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION REGARDING TIMING OF ANNOUNCEMENT PRIOR TO ACTUAL INTERCEPT OF TUNNEL, LHO SAID THAT UNC MADE THE ANNOUNCEMENT AND ROK FOLLOWED SUIT. LHO ADDED THAT HE HIMSELF WOULD HAVE BEEN INCLINED TO WAIT UNTIL FURTHER EVIDENCE WAS AVAILABLE.
3. MALAYSIAN AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED STRONG DESIRE TO VIEW DRILLING OPERATION ASAP. LHO ASSURED HIM THAT MND WAS PREPARED TO GIVE DIPLOMATIC CORPS TOUR TO TUNNEL SITE BUT ONLY ON 48-HOUR NOTICE TO OTHER SIDE.
4. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION FOLLOWING PRESENTATION, CONFIDENTIAL

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CHARGE CAUTIONED LHO AGAINST PUTTING RESPONSIBILITY

FOR TIMING OF ANNOUNCEMENT ON UNC, AND URGED HIM TO
CLARIFY RECORD AT NEXT OPPORTUNITY.
ERICSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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